

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05176

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, GW
SUBJ: ECON MINISTER CALL ON STAATSMINISTER VON DOHNANYI

1. SUMMARY ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL MINISTER PAID A CALL ON FOREIGN OFFICE STAATSMINISTER CLAUS VON DOHNANYI, TOUCHING ON THE SUBJECTS OF VON DOHNANYI'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK; THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND US-FRG ECONOMIC RELATIONS. DOHNANYI ALSO BROACHED POSSIBILITY OF A CARTER-SCHMIDT MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN MAY. END SUMMARY

2. VON DOHNANYI BEGAN BY SAYING HOW PLEASED HE HAD BEEN BY THE RECEPTION GIVEN HIM IN THE US, PARTICULARLY BY THE AMOUNT OF TIME VARIOUS KEY PEOPLE HAD TAKEN TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH HIM. HE NOTED THE LOCAL GERMAN PRESS HAD NOT GIVEN TOO MUCH COVERAGE BECAUSE OF THE ONGOING PUBLISHER/PRINTER LABOR DISPUTE. AS A LONGER TERM PROJECT, HOWEVER, HE EXPLAINED HE WAS MAKING IT A POINT TO MEET REGULARLY FOR OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, BECAUSE HE FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO EXPLAIN MORE FULLY THE PROBLEMS FACING GOVERNMENTS.

3. A CASE IN POINT, HE FELT, WERE THE TOO HIGH EXPECTATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED PRIOR TO THE FRG-US
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CONTACTS LAST WEEK ON THE DOLLAR CRISIS. VON DOHNANYI SAID THAT, DESPITE CRITICAL COMMENT IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE OVER THE DOLLAR PROBLEM, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT BASIC US-FRG RELATIONS REMAINED "UNSCRATCHED" AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT ON SEVERAL LEVELS TO TRY TO MAKE THE SITUATIONS AND DIVERGENT PROBLEMS CLEAR TO ONE ANOTHER.

4. ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING IN JULY. VON DOHNANYI SAID HE COULD NOT EMPHASIZE TOO MUCH THE NEED FOR GOOD PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MENTIONED IN WASHINGTON AND WISHED TO RE-EMPHASIZE THE FRG FEELING THAT THERE SHOULD BE A DE-EMPHASIS AT THE SUMMIT OF STATISTICAL EXERCISES AND OF CONCENTRATION ON NUMERICAL GOALS. NUMERICAL GOAL SETTING COULD LEAD TO EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS WHICH MIGHT BY FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES NOT BE FULFILLED, LEADING ONCE AGAIN TO DISAPPOINTMENT AND RECRIMINATION. THE SUMMIT TALKS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE POLICIES TO REMEDY PROBLEMS.

5. VON DOHNANYI SAID HE KNEW THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO DISCUSS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SUMMIT WITH HENRY OWEN DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO BONN. HE ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF SCHMIDT'S TRIP TO THE US TO ATTEND THE NATO SUMMIT AND THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AND WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE CARTER/SCHMIDT MEETING IN THAT PERIOD. HE NOTED THAT THE MEDIA WERE ALREADY BEGINNING TO SPECULATE ABOUT SUCH A MEETING WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT IF NO MEETING TAKES PLACE, IT COULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKEN AS A FURTHER SIGN OF TENSION BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG.

6. COMMENT: VON DOHNANYI IS CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT US-FRG RELATIONS AND FEELS THAT, WITHOUT CONTINUOUS CARE, DIFFICULTIES WILL ARISE. HE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF ONE ANOTHER'S PROBLEMS AND THAT THIS INSUFFICIENCY IS REFLECTED AND WORSENER BY SOME MEDIA COVERAGE. HE INDICATED THAT HE WILL PROBABLY WRITE SOMETHING ON US-FRG RELATIONS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. STOESSEL

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